

Minute taker: Noel Kelly  
Location: The Conference Room  
Time: 14:00-15:30

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting  
Solna, 7 November 2018

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Mark Bromley, Joey Fox, John Batho, Shannon Kyle, Tytti Erästö, Vincent Boulain, Pieter Wezeman, Siemon Wezeman, Nan Tian, Alexandra Kuimova, Giovanna Maletta, Alexandra Manolache, Quitterie de Labbey, Martina Selmi, Ekaterina Klimenko, Ugnė Komžaitė

**Agenda for A&D cluster meeting**

- Report back from Programme Heads on recent/upcoming activities (please include in the report any updates on UD funded work)
- Publications update (Joey)
- Report back from SMT
- Website review/update A&D pages
- AOB
- Date of next meeting (A&D cluster - fundraising budget workshop)

## Stockholm Peace and Development Forum 2019

- The A&D Cluster is reminded that Martina and Gary have sent a concept note and call for session information email (check your inbox 6 Nov.), for the 2019 Stockholm Forum. The dates are currently set for 14-16 **May 2019**.
- The theme is still in motion, feedback from staff is welcomed but broadly it is about stability and sustainability - connecting the stability and concessions necessary to achieve peace **today** to the sustainability of that peace in the future.
- For session proposals they are trying to make the process easier this year. Sessions will be smaller (target 25 people) and there will be more of them. To submit a proposal for a session, follow the survey monkey link provided in the email mentioned. **Submission of proposals for the first round call is open until 30 November 2018.** Please know, Martina and Gary are available for any further clarifications, email <[sthlmforum2019@sipri.org](mailto:sthlmforum2019@sipri.org)>.

## Report back from Programme Heads on recent and upcoming activities

### AMEX

- On 10 December, SIPRI will launch new data for the AMEX Arms Productions project. The team with Aude in the lead are currently working towards this deliverable.
- On 10 December, Pieter will be attending an event in Brescia, Italy, organised by a consortium of journalists that work on arms export issues and their effect in armed conflict zones. Contact Pieter if you want further information.

(Lighthouse Reports - <https://www.lighthousereports.nl/>)

- Pieter reported on the recent surge in media interest on arms sales to Saudi Arabia. This meant a lot of his time in the past week was spent dealing with media requests.
- As part of the UD project deliverables, Pieter will be working on producing a Gulf militarization topical backgrounder (2500 words) to be published on-line in December – mainly focused on Saudi Arabia and data orientated.

- As part of the UD project deliverables, the *Military Expenditures in sub-Saharan Africa* report will be out shortly (expected launch during W.46). Nan had an in-house communications strategy meeting this week and preparations are in hand.
- Again, as part of the UD project deliverables, Nan and Fei are well on track having collected data for the Chinese arms industry and currently finishing up writing a topical backgrounder. They will send a draft to the AMEX team next week for a review. It will be ready to release as part of the AP data launch on 10 December.
- The redevelopment of the SIPRI Milex Database is near the final stages and will shortly be in the test phase. Meetings with the developers Systematiq are ongoing and satisfaction with the work carried out so far is expressed. It will be used during the data collection this year and it is hoped to be ready for the data launch in 2019.
- As a general update about the status of six Black Sea project background papers (Georgia, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Ukraine and Russia), it is hoped to launch this package during November. All authors will have a final review of their papers and carry out the latest updates.
- A joint collaboration effort between AMEX and the Sahel team is under discussion. It is hoped to produce a short publication (blogpost/expert comment/ backgrounder) examining the risks of military assistance to the Sahel depending on time available this year.
- Aude has forwarded to SIPRI management a short list of candidates to be called forward for interviews for the new AMEX researcher position during early December.
- On UD 2017 project deliverables, the Southeast Asia policy paper has gone through the external review process and Siemon will work through comments towards the end of next week (W.46). At the beginning of week 46, Siemon will be working on the 2018 UD project deliverable - UNROCA background paper, this has been slightly delayed.
- On the 27 November, Siemon is going to a seminar organized within the EUNPDC framework (by IISS) about MANPADS in Brussels and will take the opportunity to attend a further meeting on 28 November organised by the Parliamentary Forum on SALW.

- This Friday (9 November), Siemon is attending a roundtable discussion event here in SIPRI, co-organized with the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Sweden. This discussion will explore potential collaboration between the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and SIPRI, attended by ASEAN dialogue partners, with Ambassadors and diplomats from respective countries. Siemon will report back about it at our next meeting.

## DUAT

- The DUAT team finalised the background paper, titled: *Arms transfer and SALW controls in the Middle East and North Africa: Mapping capacity-building efforts*. This was subsequently published on Friday, 9 November. This was the last main deliverable for an UNSCAR grant involving expanding the ATT database to include the Middle East and North Africa.
- The other project mentioned is an FCO sponsored project that is funding the transition of the website and upgrade to a new system. The programmers are progressing and are confident of having this ready in time for a deadline of March 2019.
- Kolja is working on writing a report for the *Bio Plus X – Governing Security Risks* project in collaboration with Sibylle and Vincent.
- The DUAT team are starting to work on the next part of the EXBS project that is looking at firstly, investigations and prosecutions of export control violations and secondly, regimes and how they deal with evolving technologies. This work will run from now until October next year.
- Planning is also underway for collaborative work with FPI (Flemish Peace Institute) examining illicit SALW trafficking in Europe. The DUAT team will start this work in January.
- In terms of events, Mark was in Paris on 6 November for an ATT outreach "train the trainers" meeting organised by BAFA and Expertise France.
- On 9 November, Mark will travel to Jordan for an event organized by GCSP titled '*Building Capacities on Arms Control in the MENA Region*'. Mark will present on arms transfer and SALW controls, giving an overview of the key elements of an effective control system and the results of mapping the assistance activities in the MENA

region.

- Mark reported on how DUAT are involved with UD funded project activities. The following 3 subjects were highlighted;

1) On the SDG 16.4 part, Mark is working with Marina and this will include delivering a Background Paper, following on from a Commentary piece that was published in June <<https://www.sipri.org/commentary/topical-backgrounder/2018/sdg164-and-collection-data-illicit-arms-flows-progress-made-challenges-ahead>>. The Background Paper should be ready in June 2019.

2) The expansion of the ATT database to cover SALW and AT controls. This is already on going work and the website being updated is reflective of such activity. The idea is to keep this going and add further activities.

3) The third branch of the UD funded project work by DUAT is on conventional arms controls and transparency. Some of this work is already covered by activities such as Mark's recent trip to the OSCE where he talked about reporting instruments. The trip Giovanna is doing now to Berlin (details below and in the clusterwiki) can be booked also as part of this work. The main report (policy paper) for this part of the UD grant will be towards the third quarter of next year.

- On 8 November, Giovanna will be in Berlin for a workshop on the review of the EU Common Position on arms export. ECCHR, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Saferworld and PAX are organizing this event. Giovanna will be speaker on an expert panel concerned with "Transparency and reporting".
- From 6-8 November, Kolja is in Taiwan for a workshop on Strategic Trade Controls in the Asia-Pacific. The organizer is the Pacific Forum CSIS.
- Kolja and Giovanna are planning to participate in a meeting in Brussels on 27-28 November, titled '*Network of universities on Strategic Trade Control Workshop*'. This is a meeting with a consortium of universities and other partners for a project on strategic export controls. The JRC is going to fund work for people within this consortium and it includes SIPRI. They are trying to get ideas at the moment and one of the work streams SIPRI are responsible for is concepts, and this can be anything that relates to non-proliferation and strategic trade controls. Mark has Tytti and Vitaly in mind to help and will send an email.

## **EUNPDC report**

- In terms of publications they have a working title for a paper on bio to be published next summer: *Emerging technologies on the life sciences, facts, challenges and policy recommendations*). An outline is still needed from the author.
- A paper on revising the EU SALW Strategy to be written by a researcher at the Flemish Peace Institute has been commissioned and the contract will be signed soon. The work is starting now and the paper will be published in February 2019.
- In terms of network membership, the Consortium has received three applications with an expression of interest from institutes with a more technical expertise. This may be most relevant to those of you working on emerging technology issues. One is the Physics and Disarmament **unit** within the Department of Physics at the University of Dortmund. They have expertise in military technology assessment, preventive arms controls in different fields, including non-lethal weapon technologies, nanotechnologies, and armed and uninhabited systems. The second is the Nuclear Verification and Disarmament group of the Aachen Institute for Advanced Study in Computational Engineering Science (AICES) with expertise in research to develop new verification approaches. The third one is the Science and Technology for Peace and Security (PEASEC) group at the Technische Universität Darmstadt with expertise on information technology for peace and security. When these applications are finalised the information will be shared in future reports.
- Sibylle wanted to highlight, as part of this current 3-year cycle the ambition is to expand out the network more into the natural sciences and technical expertise. Hitherto, the network had been very heavy on the social sciences. As we identify new partners that come into the network we will present them at the cluster meetings as these may be potential partners for those too working at SIPRI in emerging tech.

## **Nuclear Team**

- From 5-8 November, Petr was at conference in Washington for a 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting on US/India/Pakistan relations. During the conference Petr was a speaker on a panel on "Afghanistan and Pakistan: Regional and Global Challenges" at the Trilateral Conference

- In terms of upcoming activities, the 4/5 December we are hosting an event funded by the Mansfield Foundation on the disposition of nuclear fuel. This is a rather technical topic and the second of two meetings on the subject. This will be followed by a field trip to Forsmark on 6 December.
- On 17/18 December, Shannon is invited to the next meeting of the Iran dialogue being hosted in Finland by The Crisis Management Initiative (CMI). It will be an opportunity to explore future cooperation between CMI and SIPRI on Middle East peace and security topics.
- In terms of fundraising, a grant has been attained from the Hiroshima Prefecture and the contract is being finalised. This time looking at the verification of nuclear disarmament and Petr will take the lead on this project. It will be a mapping exercise and a rather technical endeavour.
- Tytti is working on the proposal for an INF treaty related seminar here in SIPRI. This had to be rewritten following the U.S. withdrawal from the treaty. There is much interest in this topical subject and the Heinrich Böll Foundation may be interested in funding. This is being finalised in cooperation with ELN. If funding is attained it may happen here in SIPRI early next year.
- There are other proposals still in process, including for strategic stability expert seminar series.
- The proposal to the Ploughshares Fund on funding an Iran missiles project was unsuccessful. Despite not having the funds available for this work they were encouraging and suggested other possible funding sources, including the Open Society Foundations.
- In terms of recent trips, Tytti attend the Warsaw Security Forum (24-25 October) during this event she participated as a discussant in a panel titled: *Protecting skies over Central and Eastern Europe - Air and Missile Defence as a field of regional cooperation?* Tytti was in Iceland on 30 October for the NATO Arms Control Conference and spoke at a side event “Practical Approach to Disarmament in Uncertain Times”.
- Tytti has been working on INF treaty issues in the last few weeks but will focus on Iran again. Tytti is going to Germany this week to attend an expert meeting on Iran. The conference from 9-11 November is titled: *In a Quagmire: How Could Europe Improve its Iran Policy, a Foresight Conference*. They will look at issues such as the JCPOA, European relations, the oil embargo, and the last U.S. sanctions.

- On 20 November, Tytti will do a briefing for the European Parliament on Iran and focusing on missiles.
- Tytti introduced Ugnė Komžaitė, a recently arrived intern working with Tytti. Among other things, Ugnė has summarised UNGA 1<sup>st</sup> committee discussions and reports on TPNW and will be here in SIPRI until the end of February.
- On future publications coming up, Shannon highlighted some INF-Treaty related blog pieces being planned. Including one looking at the future of arms control broadly defined. The other will be addressing the question '*Is there a nuclear arms race coming up?*' Tytti is also preparing a backgrounder on Iran's missiles. The WMD free zone in Middle East paper is also in process and should be completed soon. These two publications are under the UD grant.

### **Emerging Military and Security Technologies**

- Vincent work has been mainly focussed on the Carnegie project and relating to this, a draft of the Insights Paper 1 has been finalised and been internally reviewed. The draft will be circulated shortly to the nuclear experts in the A&D cluster for feedback. Vincent has written an Op-ed connected to this report and will circulate shortly for comment.
- In terms of events, Vincent reported on a Carnegie project related communication-training event in Washington. Lora attend as well and Vincent met with SIPRI Comms to discuss how to disseminate the lessons learnt in-house.
- Vincent has many events planned in November and December and please check the clusterwiki for details. Briefly, Vincent will be travelling to Switzerland for an event on swarming and going to NATO as well in November to speak about autonomous weapons. Vincent will be attending the EUNPDC Conference 2018 as a speaker in December. Also in December, Vincent travels to Moscow for a conference on emerging technologies and again focussing on autonomous weapons but the scope is much broader.
- In terms of fund raising, Vincent inquired on the current status of the Norwegian grant proposal? It was explained nothing has been forwarded yet. It is being discussed and concept notes have been compiled. It's thought best to go to Oslo and speak with people first.

- Vincent will be submitting a proposal to the Canadian DoD for funding programme money that was received last year. It's not much money but it could help to host a small event or fund some short publications. On the to do list!

## Publications

- Not so much to report at the moment, as communication has been good. Just a general reminder, to make sure you Cc Sibylle and Noel, especially when communicating with the Editors where drafts are concerned.
- There are tight launch schedules at the moment so keep this mind if there are slipping deadlines. Joey should have an integrated schedule for the YB sent to us shortly.

## Comms/website review/update A&D pages

- The Cluster is again reminded to take time and look at relevant webpages. If something needs updating please let Alexandra M know. | Alexandra plans to have individual meeting with teams to follow up.

## SMT

- SMT – peanuts and perfume alert reminder. Siemon has already sent an email to all staff but Sibylle would like to emphasise once again how important it is that we comply with this request and importantly let others know.
- Message from Helena – **travel reminder!** Those who travel for work are obligated to inform the employer of travel plans and logistics. It is the responsibility of the employer to know, especially in case of emergency. This information should always be sent to the HR manager Helena Berger, and please Cc Noel in the correspondence.
- On the forthcoming Governing board meeting, Sibylle noted that some A&D staff would be traveling during the meeting but reminded all others to block those days and be available. Same as last time, there will be a general lunch meeting for all staff with board members, a group photograph, and on the Tuesday morning a meeting for all staff to participate. More details will come in due course.
- On Monday 26 November, there will be an evening event at Medelhavsmuseet Stockholm with all the Governing board members

attending. It will be a public event and more details will be shared with staff shortly.

- Sigrun asked to mention that SIPRI would have a visit by a group of young diplomats from Nordic and Baltic countries. They will be here on 22 November and Dan will do a briefing first generally on SIPRI and then the focus will mainly be on climate change issues. However, some of these visiting diplomats do not work on climate issues but other peace and security related areas. There is a dinner that evening, and those interested in attending the event please let Sigrun know.
- On Monday 12 November, SIPRI management have been invited to the ECDC building for a reception with them. The ECDC new office building is now in the area, just across the road from our local Hemkop on Gustav III Boulevard. They work on bio issues and Sibylle will forward details to relevant staff.
- On 7 November, a SIPRI delegation met with the new Swedish Disarmament Ambassador, Ann-Sofie Nilsson. Sibylle gave an overview on the work we do here. It was discussed we should have in-depth briefings with the teams here on each of the issues of interest to them.

AOB.

- On the fundraising workshop follow up, we will again try to get a date for a presentation from Lena on budget/fundraising with the A&D cluster.
- Please do not forget to share travel information on upcoming events you plan to attend with Helena Berger and Cc Noel.

*\*Please note; details on attended events by A&D staff are in the clusterwiki:  
[http://clusterswiki.sipri.org/index.php/Armament %26 Disarmament Cluster - Calendar of Events List \(October-December 2018\)](http://clusterswiki.sipri.org/index.php/Armament_%26_Disarmament_Cluster_-_Calendar_of_Events_List_(October-December_2018))*

#### **Date of next cluster meeting**

- 6 December – 9:00AM